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Report of the Secretary-General on South Sudan (covering the period from 1 April to 3 June 2016)

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 2252 (2015), by which the Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) until 31 July 2016 and requested me to report on the implementation of the mandate every 60 days. It covers developments from 1 April to 3 June 2016 and contains recommendations for the renewal of the mandate.

II. Political and economic developments

Peace process

2. Since my most recent report (S/2016/341), noticeable progress has been made towards the implementation of the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan. On 26 April, after a week of intense negotiations over his security detail, the Chair of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army in Opposition (SPLM/A in Opposition), Riek Machar, returned to Juba and was sworn in as the First Vice-President of South Sudan. The swearing-in ceremony was witnessed by government officials, religious and community leaders and representatives of the international community. In his remarks, the First Vice-President outlined the immediate challenges facing the country, including the stabilization of the security situation and the economy, the provision of humanitarian relief to those in need in rural and urban settings, and ensuring national reconciliation and healing. For his part, the President, Salva Kiir, hailed the return of Mr. Machar as marking the end of the civil war and the return of peace and stability. He also apologized to the people for the suffering caused by the war and pledged to resolve all outstanding issues relating to the peace agreement amicably.

3. In addition to the First Vice-President, several other key leaders of SPLM/A in Opposition returned to Juba, including the Deputy Chair, Alfred Ladu Gore, and the Chief of the General Staff, Simon Gatwech Dual. Their return was preceded by the completion of the first phase of the transitional security arrangements, which included the arrival of 1,370 security personnel of SPLM/A in Opposition, including representatives of the Joint Integrated Police and the Strategic Defence and Security

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Review Board, and the redeployment of forces of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) 25 km outside Juba. However, the verification of the redeployment, including troop numbers and locations, continues to pose a challenge for the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism.

4. On 28 April, the President issued Decree No. 222/2016, appointing 30 ministers and eight deputy ministers to constitute the transitional Government of National Unity, in accordance with the peace agreement. The transitional Government was subsequently inaugurated on 29 April, beginning the 30-month transitional period. In accordance with the power-sharing formula contained in the peace agreement, the Government, which was allotted 53 per cent of the ministerial posts in the transitional Government, appointed 16 ministers, including those of Finance, Commerce and Economic Planning, Defence and Veterans' Affairs, and National Security, while SPLM/A in Opposition, with 33 per cent of the allocated ministries, appointed 10 ministers, including those of Petroleum, Mining and Industries and for the Interior and Wildlife Conservation. The other political parties and the former detainees, each allocated 7 per cent, appointed two ministers each: the other political parties the Ministers for Cabinet Affairs and for Agriculture, Forestry, Tourism, Animal Resources and Fisheries and the former detainees those for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and Transport, Roads and Bridges. Only the Government met the 25 per cent requirement for representation of women, as stipulated in the peace agreement, nominating four women. SPLM/A in Opposition nominated two women, while no women were nominated by either the other political parties or the former detainees.

5. During meetings of the Presidency (consisting of the President, the First Vice-President and Vice-President James Wani Igga) on 31 May, 1 June and 3 June, a number of issues were discussed in order to move the implementation of the peace agreement forward. They included the lifting of the state of emergency, the release of political detainees and prisoners of war, the cantonment of forces, the appointment of presidential advisers and the formation of the transitional National Legislative Assembly. The Presidency endorsed the decision of 27 May of the Council of Ministers to establish cantonment areas in the greater Equatoria and greater Bahr el-Ghazal regions, in addition to greater Upper Nile. The Joint Military Ceasefire Commission was tasked with developing identification criteria for the sites in greater Equatoria and verification of the presence of SPLM/A in Opposition forces in greater Bahr el-Ghazal. It was also agreed that the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism would complete the verification of the demilitarization of Juba.

6. In response to the discontent of the parties over the President's unilateral appointment of 10 presidential advisers on 4 May, with portfolios including military affairs, local government, security, education, economic affairs, legal affairs, agriculture, religious affairs and special affairs, as well as a special adviser to the President and Presidential Envoy, the Presidency reached a compromise, agreeing to appoint 19 presidential advisers. They would be the 10 nominated by the President, 6 nominated by SPLM/A in Opposition and 3 nominated by the other political parties and the former detainees.

7. The Presidency also agreed to expedite the formation of the transitional National Legislative Assembly. To that end, the 10 members who had been appointed by the President on 27 April and subsequently sworn in on 23 May to

replace deceased parliamentarians were endorsed. The remaining six vacant seats, however, will be filled by the Presidency after joint consultation with the relevant constituencies. All parliamentarians who had vacated their seats after the conflict in December 2013 were also reinstated with immediate effect. The disagreement over the appointment of 17 new parliamentarians allocated to the other political parties was resolved on 30 May, with the intervention of the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development. The leaders of the two coalitions of the other political parties, the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Tourism, Animal Resources and Fisheries and leader of the National Alliance, Lam Akol, and the Minister for Cabinet Affairs and leader of the National Agenda, Martin Elia Lomuro, agreed that representatives of the other political parties in the transitional Assembly would consist of the 12 parties that had signed the peace agreement and attended the multi-party symposium held in Addis Ababa in June 2014 and the 5 other parties whose representatives had attended the symposium but did not sign the agreement. At the time of reporting, however, the formation of the transitional Assembly continued to be delayed owing to disagreements among the parties over the procedure for the election of the Speaker and the accommodation of members who had changed their political affiliation.

Other political developments

8. Further to my previous report, in which I reported on the passage of the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) Act 2016, discussions are continuing with the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission of South Sudan and the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management regarding its implementation. Although implementation was postponed by the Commission on 10 May, humanitarian workers were told to expect it to begin at some time in June.

9. At the State level, the formation of state and local administrations continued, in accordance with the establishment order on the creation of 28 States (No. 36/2015), notwithstanding the endorsement by the parties of the injunction on its implementation taken out by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission, and pending the resolution of state boundaries by an inclusive national boundaries commission. On 17 April, the President issued a separate order on the creation of new counties within the 28 states. The continued implementation of the order has led to mounting financial and capacity constraints and intercommunal tensions over boundary disputes, the location of county headquarters and the sharing of resources. On 1 June, however, the Presidency agreed to establish a 15-member committee to review the number of states and their boundaries and make recommendations on the way forward. The committee will consist of four members from the Sudan People's Liberation Movement in Government, three from SPLM/A in Opposition, one from the former detainees, two from the other political parties and five international representatives, including from the troika (Norway, the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), the United Republic of Tanzania and South Africa. The committee, once constituted, will have 30 days to complete its work.

Economic developments

10. The economic situation remained dire. Owing to diminished global oil prices, the foreign exchange reserves at the Bank of South Sudan are severely depleted.

According to the National Bureau of Statistics, the 12-month increase in the consumer price index reached 245 per cent in March 2016 and 266 per cent in April 2016, driven mainly by surging food prices. Fuel shortages have re-emerged and salary payments for civil servants are now three months in arrears. The official accession of South Sudan to the East African Community, expected in October 2016, and parliamentary approval for the revenue authority law could potentially improve the medium-term to long-term prospects for the economy.

III. Security situation

11. The security situation remained tense in the greater Upper Nile and greater Bahr el-Ghazal regions, with intercommunal tensions remaining high in Boma and Jonglei, partly as a result of a cross-border attack into Gambella, Ethiopia. Armed clashes intensified in Wau County in Western Bahr el-Ghazal between SPLA, SPLM/A in Opposition and unknown armed groups. In the greater Equatorias, violence involving armed groups, accompanied by reports of land-grabbing and the harassment of civilians, continued to be reported.

Greater Upper Nile region

12. The political impasse between the newly appointed authorities in Boma and the Cobra faction of the South Sudan Democratic Movement/Army continued, with fears of renewed conflict in Pibor. Early in April, the South Sudan Council of Churches attempted to mediate between the parties. Meanwhile, fighting among the Anuak communities of Pochalla North and Pochalla South counties in Jonglei, which began at the end of March, with the reported involvement of the Cobra faction and members of the Murle community, subsided. According to the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission, an estimated 22,000 civilians from Pochalla North were displaced by the fighting, with many fleeing to nearby payams bordering Ethiopia.

13. As the fighting ceased in Pochalla, armed elements, allegedly belonging to the Murle community, crossed the South Sudanese border and attacked 13 villages in the Gambella region of western Ethiopia on 15 April. The attackers reportedly killed 186 civilians and returned to Likuangole, Boma, with more than 100 abducted Ethiopian children and hundreds of head of cattle. The Ethiopian National Defence Forces immediately crossed into Pochalla South and Pochalla North counties in order to recover the abducted children. On 10 May, the Chief of the Cobra faction and Deputy Defence Minister, David Yau Yau, travelled to Gumuruk to restore good relations with traditional chiefs and the new Boma administration. The Deputy Defence Minister, the Boma Governor, Baba Medan, and Murle traditional chiefs are reportedly working together to retrieve some of the abducted children from Pibor and Likuangole counties. As at 3 June, 78 children had been recovered.

14. In Unity, the several weeks of calm notwithstanding, fighting broke out on 13 April between South Sudan Liberation Army soldiers under the command of Major General Matthew Puljang and armed civilians in Riek payam, Mayom County. At least 20 people were reportedly killed. Meanwhile, in Upper Nile, although the situation remained calm, UNMISS received increasing reports about a build-up of SPLA and SPLM/A in Opposition troops along the west bank of the Nile.

Greater Bahr el-Ghazal region

15. The security situation worsened in Western Bahr el-Ghazal, with persistent reports of harassment of civilians in the town of Wau and armed clashes between SPLA and SPLM/A in Opposition forces in Wau County. On 5 April, UNMISS observed a build-up of SPLA forces in the Wau area, including the deployment of Mi-17 and Mi-24 attack helicopters and the presence of some 200 to 300 troops at the airport. The Mission also received reports of an aerial bombardment of SPLM/A in Opposition positions in Nvokongo and Ngo Sulungu. Fighting continued over the following two days, with reports of heavy casualties on both sides, while areas around Loko Loko and Mboro were completely destroyed. Subsequently, thousands of people were displaced and remain in hiding in the bush (see paras. 20 and 32 below). The Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism has thus far been unable to travel to the site to verify the reports, owing to security and logistical constraints.

16. In mid-May, UNMISS also received reports of heavy clashes between SPLM/A in Opposition elements and the Justice and Equality Movement south of Diem Zubeir, some 75 km south of the town of Raga, during which the Movement allegedly incurred heavy casualties. In addition, the security situation in Western Bahr el-Ghazal continues to be adversely affected by the presence of armed migrant cattle-keepers from Warrap, who allegedly have the support of locally deployed SPLA forces.

Greater Equatoria region

17. In Central Equatoria, the security situation remained tense, with continued reports of violence involving armed groups, as well as land-grabbing, looting and harassment of civilians. UNMISS received reports from local community sources of the increased presence of armed groups and attacks on the roads to Morobo, Torit and Kaya. On 12 April, an international NGO team travelling on the Yei-Morobo road was ambushed and two national staff were killed by an unknown armed group (see para. 21 below). On 7 May, communal violence erupted between Mundari and Bari communities in the town of Mangalla, Terekeka County, over the administrative ownership of the town, resulting in four deaths, including three SPLA guards of the Jubek Governor. Several incidents allegedly perpetrated by SPLA also took place, including allegations of looting of crops and harassment of civilians following SPLA deployments in Juba County under the transitional security arrangements. The fatal shooting of an aid worker on 15 May (see para. 21 below) has prompted local civil society organizations to call for the immediate relocation of SPLA outside Yei. Meanwhile, in Juba, the situation has remained tense but stable since the arrival of the First Vice-President.

18. In Western Equatoria, the Government and the South Sudan National Liberation Movement signed a peace agreement on 2 April, following mediation facilitated by the faith-based Council for Peace supported by UNMISS and assisted by the Governor of Gbudwe. The agreement provides for the integration of members of the Movement into SPLA, the South Sudan National Police Service or other organized forces. Meanwhile, there has been limited progress in negotiations between the Government and other armed youth groups in the region. The South Sudan People's Patriotic Front is reportedly increasing operations in the area and incidents attributed to the group were reported in Li-Rangu, Yambio County, and on

the Nagero-Tambura road, with reported clashes with SPLA. Reported looting and ambushes of humanitarian and commercial vehicles in Kapoeta East County, Eastern Equatoria, are believed to have been carried out by armed elements affiliated to SPLM/A in Opposition. Insecurity was also reported along the Juba-Nimule road, with uniformed armed men stopping vehicles at gunpoint, allegedly linked to the deployment of SPLA soldiers in the area.

IV. Humanitarian situation

19. In April and May, the humanitarian situation remained severe in terms of scale, scope and urgency. A combination of fighting in previously stable areas of the country, mounting food insecurity, economic decline and humanitarian funding gaps continued to make life unbearable for many civilians.

20. In April, humanitarian partners succeeded in reaching Mboro in Western Bahr el-Ghazal for the first time since November 2015. On 21 April, a humanitarian assessment was undertaken simultaneously with an inter-agency humanitarian response, during which about 7,000 conflict-affected people benefited. On 20 May, an inter-agency humanitarian assessment was conducted in the greater Baggari area outside the town of Wau, in locations that had not been accessible for more than seven months. Initial findings indicated visible destruction of civilian property and livelihoods and looting and vandalizing of community assets, such as schools and health facilities. High rates of sexual and gender-based violence were also reported. The affected communities indicated that food, shelter and non-food items and agricultural inputs were their priority needs.

21. Humanitarian actors continued to encounter challenges to their operations, including insecurity, active hostilities, bureaucratic impediments and logistical constraints. Humanitarian partners reported 78 access incidents in May and 48 in April, compared with 60 in March and 62 in February. In May, violence against humanitarian personnel or assets accounted for 73 per cent of all reported incidents. In April, active hostilities in Upper Nile resulted in the relocation of 17 aid workers from Ulang County. On 12 April, an international NGO team working with the Mine Action Service travelling on the Yei-Morobo road was ambushed by an unknown armed group, which reportedly targeted and killed two South Sudanese staff members. Early in May, a South Sudanese staff member of an international NGO was killed at home in Juba; on 10 May, the driver of a truck contracted by a United Nations agency was killed in an ambush on the Magwi-Torit road; and, on 15 May, a nun and medical doctor was shot in Yei while driving a marked ambulance, succumbing to her injuries some days later. The number of aid workers killed since December 2013 now totals 55.

22. The food security situation remained grave, with deterioration reported in some areas. Preliminary results of recent assessments indicate an early and widespread onset to the lean season, with the numbers of severely food-insecure persons potentially higher than in 2015 and at their highest since independence. The most significant deteriorations are in the greater Bahr el-Ghazal and Equatoria regions and are driven by poor market supply, high prices and poor harvests in some areas. Marginal improvements in parts of the greater Upper Nile region are largely attributed to improved access and humanitarian assistance, underscoring the need to

maintain and expand support in the coming lean season. The situation for populations in Unity remains of grave concern.

23. The combined effects of food shortages, continued insecurity and economic decline have also triggered a significant movement of people from South Sudan into neighbouring countries. According to humanitarian actors, from January to mid-May 2016, more than 115,000 South Sudanese had fled to neighbouring countries, including about 70,000 who fled to the Sudan. Although most of the arrivals were from Northern Bahr el-Ghazal, some were also recorded from Western Bahr el-Ghazal and Warrap. New movement patterns were reported into the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Central African Republic, with 12,000 and 11,000 new arrivals, respectively. Movements were also recorded from Eastern Equatoria into Kenya and Uganda.

24. The operational challenges notwithstanding, humanitarian partners continued to scale up their response. Since the beginning of 2016, more than 2.36 million people have been reached with humanitarian and protection assistance, which includes more than 1.47 million people who have received food assistance, 834,551 people who have been assisted in accessing improved water sources, 285,057 children (39 per cent of whom are girls) who are accessing education and 148,560 children and pregnant and lactating women who have been treated for malnutrition. In total, 234,621 health consultations have been carried out in conflict-affected and vulnerable areas, with an additional 8,360 women accessing antenatal care services, 1,580 women assisted in delivery and 185 women accessing post-abortion care services. Humanitarian partners took advantage of the dry season to pre-position and deliver aid supplies where possible, especially in areas that are inaccessible by road during the rainy season. Ahead of the rains, to mitigate a possible cholera outbreak, humanitarian partners have also increased the pre-positioning of health and hygiene supplies across the country.

25. Funding remains a critical challenge. The Humanitarian Response Plan for 2016 is just 30 per cent funded, leaving a gap of $899.6 million.

V. Implementation of the reprioritized mandated tasks

A. Protection of civilians

26. In implementing its mandate to protect civilians, UNMISS has continued to follow a three-tiered approach. Under tier 1, protection through dialogue and political engagement, my Special Representative has used her good offices to facilitate the continued support of regional and international partners for the implementation of the peace agreement and advocated directly with national counterparts to promote freedom of movement.

27. UNMISS has also continued to build local capacity for conflict management, peacebuilding and mediation, delivering 13 workshops for more than 1,150 attendees, representing State and traditional authorities, political parties, civil society organizations, cattle-keepers and communities at large. In Lakes, those efforts have contributed to the resolution of long-standing resource-based conflicts in Tonj. In Western Equatoria, local stakeholders discussed insecurity along the Yambio-Juba corridor. Meanwhile, other programmes were focused on enhancing the role of

women as peacebuilders in their communities. In a round-table discussion that was focused on leadership, democracy and conflict mitigation in Aweil, Northern Bahr el-Ghazal, participants underscored the need for forgiveness, reconciliation and national healing, as well as the importance of conflict-prevention efforts. To mitigate security incidents in and around its sites for the protection of civilians, UNMISS also conducted a workshop for 60 community leaders in Upper Nile to raise their awareness of their roles in constructively cooperating with the delivery of humanitarian and protection services on site.

28. Under tier 2, protection of civilians under threat of physical violence, UNMISS has continued to protect some 169,983 internally displaced persons at six UNMISS sites nationwide. As at 3 June 2016, the largest of those sites included Bentiu, with 98,653 internally displaced persons, Juba, with 27,959 and Malakal, with 40,448. External threats to the sites were mitigated through outreach by the UNMISS military component and the establishment of additional watchtowers. Internal security was enhanced through a constant United Nations police presence, reinforced by the UNMISS military component, as necessary. During the reporting period, 398 security incidents were reported at the sites. There are currently 37 detainees in three holding facilities in Juba, Bentiu and Malakal.

29. UNMISS also worked to improve the security of the site at Malakal following the security incidents on 17 and 18 February, through contingency planning in conjunction with humanitarian actors and community leaders. Site rehabilitation also continued, including repairs and fortification of the physical security infrastructure. The Mission and humanitarian partners also assisted the relocation of the 22,000 remaining internally displaced Shilluk and Nuer from the UNMISS logistics base back to the site.

30. Beyond the protection sites, the UNMISS military component has increased its outreach into conflict-affected areas, primarily through sector-based patrolling from permanent and temporary operating bases. Long-duration patrols and dynamic air patrols have also assisted the expansion of its geographical reach. In addition, it is using early-warning indicators to plan patrols to potential flashpoint areas. In Bentiu and Leer, the Mission is working closely with humanitarian protection partners to identify hotspot locations in which civilians are at risk and is conducting regular foot patrols to the east and west of the protection site at Bentiu and evening patrols in the vicinity of Leer to improve security. It has also established a forward operating base in Malakal town to improve security for civilians.

31. Under tier 3, establishment of a protective environment, UNMISS continues to focus on extending protection activities beyond the protection sites, to build confidence and encourage an environment conducive to voluntary returns. In addition, on 6 May, my Special Representative met the First Vice-President, at his request, to discuss the voluntary return and reintegration of internally displaced persons. Given the gravity of the issue, the First Vice-President requested close cooperation between the United Nations and the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs on a framework for return and reintegration. Meanwhile, about 20,000 internally displaced persons were reported to have voluntarily left the protection sites at Bentiu, Bor and Juba. In Bentiu, nearly 10,000 left the site, probably owing to a resumption of humanitarian and protection services outside the site and a relative improvement in the security situation, as well as the need to cultivate crops ahead of the rainy season. In Jonglei, the "solutions working group" jointly facilitated the

return of 206 internally displaced persons from the site at Bor to Akobo. To support sustainable voluntary returns, the United Nations humanitarian country team is discussing a multidimensional response, including support for early recovery and community stabilization initiatives.

B. Monitoring and investigating human rights

32. During the reporting period, UNMISS continued to monitor, investigate, verify and report on human rights violations and abuses and violations of international humanitarian law, with a view to documenting past violations for accountability purposes. Developments in Wau County, Western Bahr el-Ghazal, were of particular concern, with several instances of heavy fighting between SPLA and SPLM/A in Opposition in March and April, accompanied by reports of violations, including killings and harassment of civilians outside the town of Wau. Active hostilities and access constraints, including restrictions of movement imposed by SPLA, continued to hamper UNMISS efforts to investigate the violations. On 5 May, UNMISS gained access to Farajallah through Wau South payam, Baggari, Natabu, Brinji, Ngisa and Ngodakala, following the withdrawal of SPLA forces. Civilians had largely deserted the area, but a few residents indicated that SPLA soldiers had committed serious human rights abuses, including killing civilians, looting and burning civilian property. On 10 May, UNMISS observed that civilians had deserted Momoi payam and that most houses had been vandalized or burned down. A heavy SPLA presence was observed in Momoi and Bussere. UNMISS continued to gather information through interviews with victims, witnesses and other sources, including in Wau County, and to investigate alleged violations in the town of Wau, including the killing and harassment of civilians by SPLA.

33. During the reporting period, challenges to the administration of justice in accordance with international human rights standards continued. Cases of prolonged and arbitrary detention, proxy detention, detention in substandard conditions, detention in connection with acts not constituting crimes and detention on the orders of customary courts lacking the statutory authority to pass custodial sentences were observed, in particular at detention facilities in Juba, Kuajok and Rumbek in Lakes and Ganyel in Panyijar County in Unity.

34. Politically motivated detentions were a feature in various locations. In Northern Bahr el-Ghazal, at least 18 alleged opposition supporters were reportedly arrested between 9 and 11 April in Bar Mayen payam in Aweil South County and held in police custody. At least 7 of the detainees were reportedly released on 12 April, while 11 were transferred to military custody at an SPLA facility near Aweil. On 17 May, the 11 detainees were released without charge, reportedly on condition that they refrain from political activity. They had been physically mistreated. In Central Equatoria, UNMISS gathered information about an assault on a public prosecutor by SPLA soldiers in Rejaf payam on 22 April, after he had ordered the release, for lack of evidence, of 7 of the 11 detainees arrested by SPLA on 27 March, allegedly for attacking Dinka young people. The seven detainees were returned to police custody thereafter. On 27 April, the former Governor of Western Equatoria, Joseph Bakosoro, was released from the custody of the National Security Service, having been detained without formal charge since 22 December 2015.

35. A 14-year-old boy, accused with three others of stealing money from a colonel's house in Turalei County, Warrap, on 15 May, reportedly died after being mistreated by five SPLA soldiers. The soldiers have since been arrested. Meanwhile, at least two SPLA soldiers were reportedly taken into military custody over the shooting of an aid worker on 15 May in Yei. They are yet to be released into police custody.

36. Violations of freedom of expression continued during the reporting period. On 9 May, four staff members of the State-owned Voice of Eastern Equatoria radio station were detained for several hours by the National Security Service. Before being released on bail, they were warned against broadcasting anything critical of the Government.

37. Concerns relating to the promotion and protection of economic and social rights, including those relating to access to land and livelihoods, were also reported. Allegations of land-grabbing, potentially amounting to forced evictions, were received, including in areas in which cantonment sites were being established in Juba County. In Northern Bahr el-Ghazal, a government-supported land survey conducted in March and April in an area of the town of Aweil, ostensibly relating to the provision of public services, could also reportedly result in the eviction of economically vulnerable returnee women in the area. Elsewhere in the town, police officers took unilateral action on 4 April to intimidate local traders into closing their businesses briefly to draw attention to the non-payment of police salaries since February 2015. UNMISS is monitoring the disciplinary measures taken against the officers involved.

38. Restrictions on movement and access continued to pose a challenge to the monitoring and investigation of human rights violations in some areas. In the Equatorias, on 5 and 6 April, UNMISS integrated teams monitoring the human rights and security situation were denied access to Yei and Morobo counties via the Juba-Yei road for the third and fourth time since the previous reporting period. On 11 April, an UNMISS team was prevented from travelling to Ikotos County for the second time in recent months, preventing investigation of allegations of human rights violations committed by SPLA. On 26 April, the local authorities refused permission for an UNMISS human rights monitoring mission to go to Tambura and Source Yubu in Tambura County and it continued to be denied access to Yambio and Masia to monitor the human rights situation, following the directive issued by the Governor of Gbudwe (created by establishment order No. 36/2016) on 11 May prohibiting UNMISS patrols. On 2 June, the State Minister for Local Government committed himself to lifting the restriction on human rights monitoring activities, but at the time of writing that had yet to be tested.

39. Between 25 April and 9 May, the Government initiated a series of workshops on conflict-related sexual violence for members of the Joint Technical Working Group established by the Office of the President to oversee the implementation of the joint communiqué on conflict-related sexual violence, which it signed in October 2014. As part of its implementation strategy, the Government has requested assistance from the United Nations to organize a national consultation and a validation workshop to bring together all relevant stakeholders working on tackling crimes of sexual violence. On 9 May, my Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict travelled to Juba and met the President, the First Vice-President and the Inspector General of Police. During her trip she called upon the Government and the

opposition to merge their two implementation plans to address conflict-related sexual violence in line with the new political dispensation and urged the transitional Government to ensure accountability for sexual violence crimes and exclude those responsible for human rights violations and sexual violence during the reconstitution of the national armed forces, through a vetting process.

40. During the period under review, 84 incidents affecting 1,605 children were reported, while the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism Country Task Force verified 62 of those incidents, affecting 1,139 children. Denial of humanitarian access and the recruitment and use of children accounted for the majority of verified incidents, many of which were reported in Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile. Following the adoption by SPLM/A in Opposition in December 2015 of an action plan to end and prevent the recruitment, use, killing and maiming of children, the United Nations began preparing a release campaign. While no children have been formally released, SPLM/A in Opposition has appointed two senior child protection focal points, one military and one civilian, to engage with the United Nations. In May 2016, a joint United Nations-SPLA team embarked on the screening and verification of children associated with SPLA. Thus far, 22 boys have been registered and released from the ranks of SPLA in Bentiu and family tracing and reunification is continuing. Two schools were confirmed as vacated by armed forces and groups following United Nations verification missions.

C. Creating the conditions conducive to the delivery of humanitarian assistance

41. During the reporting period, through close collaboration with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Juba and local humanitarian partners and representatives in the various sectors, UNMISS military personnel provided force protection for food drops, convoys and many other humanitarian activities. Force protection for main supply routes also improved conditions for the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

42. The Mine Action Service continued to play a key role in creating the conditions for the delivery of humanitarian assistance through surveys, route assessments and mine clearance. During the reporting period, the Service assessed 437 km of roads, including the road from Leer to Rumbek, released 4,501,008 m^2 of land and destroyed 418 landmines, 3,462 items of unexploded ordnance and 28,098 items of small arms ammunition. In Leer and Bentiu, working together with humanitarian partners, it surveyed and cleared more than 31 school sites. It also surveyed and cleared borehole sites for international NGOs in Bentiu and Mundri to restore safe access to clean water. Through survey and clearance of the airstrip, it provided an emergency response to the need to dispose of explosive ordnance after recent fighting in Pibor. It also deployed explosive detection dogs at the site for the protection of civilians in Juba to assist United Nations police officers with search and weapon-clearing exercises. On 25 April, the Service responded to an incident in which a rocket-propelled grenade hit and penetrated a container within the humanitarian hub of the UNMISS compound in Bentiu. It also provided risk education sessions to 76,486 civilians and safety briefings on landmines for 425 UNMISS staff and humanitarian workers.

D. Supporting the implementation of the peace agreement

43. During the reporting period, my Special Representative used her good offices, in coordination with the Chair of the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission, Festus Mogae, and the African Union High Representative, Alpha Oumar Konaré, to facilitate the return of Riek Machar and other SPLM/A in Opposition leaders to Juba, enabling the establishment of the transitional Government. Between 24 March and 10 April, UNMISS, in coordination with the Commission, supported the implementation of the first phase of the transitional security arrangements, including by providing transport for 360 of 1,370 SPLM/A in Opposition troops to Juba, as well as representatives of the Strategic Defence and Security Review Board and 22 officers to support the establishment of the Joint Integrated Police. In addition, UNMISS provided logistics support for handling flights in Malakal and the provision of fuel to SPLM/A in Opposition for vehicles and boats for moving troops from Kaldak to Malakal. It also provided heavy engineering support and mine action services for the preparation of three sites in Juba to receive the incoming troops. UNMISS is currently working with the Commission to facilitate the implementation of the second phase of the transitional security arrangements.

44. In support of the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism, UNMISS continued to provide force protection and logistics support to facilitate its operations. On 24 April, the Mission agreed to provide the Mechanism with up to 24 vehicles in support of its mandate. During the reporting period, UNMISS also supported the establishment of an additional monitoring and verification team in Torit, Eastern Equatoria, and the relocation of a monitoring and verification team in Aweil, Northern Bahr el-Ghazal, to Wau, Western Bahr el-Ghazal. Nine teams are now operational in South Sudan. Access constraints and bureaucratic impediments, however, continue to hamper the monitoring and verification activities of the Mechanism outside the greater Upper Nile region. Most recently, on 20 May, the monitoring and verification team leader in Torit was arrested and detained by local authorities. The verification of the implementation of the transitional security arrangements for Juba continues to be constrained by the non-disclosure of forces by the Government.

45. On 16 May, the Joint Operations Centre, tasked with deconflicting the operations of security forces in Juba, began basic operations. In support of the operations of the Centre, UNMISS has co-located four United Nations police officers. Partners of the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission are also working to provide other logistical and material support. On 24 May, the Minister of the Interior issued a directive establishing the Joint Management Team that will oversee the Joint Integrated Police. On 26 May and 3 June, respectively, the Joint Management Team met and agreed to develop guidelines for the operations of the Joint Integrated Police and recommended that training be started using the existing facilities at the police academy in Rajaf. To resolve the continuing disagreement among the parties over the authority, reporting and functions of the Joint Integrated Police, the Minister has mandated that the Joint Management Team report directly to him.

46. My Special Representative also continued her efforts to facilitate the coordination of international support for the peace process. Following the formation of the transitional Government on 29 April, she convened meetings of international and regional members of the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission to

continue monitoring progress and coordinate engagement with the newly formed Government. During the meetings, the international partners proposed key messages to be delivered to the transitional Government, including on the issue of monitoring and responding to negative propaganda that could undermine the peace process, advocacy for unimpeded humanitarian access, encouraging coordination with international partners to address the national economic crisis and calling for the urgent operationalization of the transitional security institutions.

E. Cross-cutting issues

47. On 21 April, UNMISS held a national women's peace forum, as the culmination of 16 subnational women's peace forums held nationwide in 2015 and 2016 with the participation of more than 700 women. The forum highlighted the important role of women in the peace process, the protection of women and girls against sexual and gender-based violence and the prevention of conflict. Similarly, on 25 and 26 May, the women of South Sudan, with support from the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, organized a two-day national women's peace conference, attracting 530 participants, to strengthen collaboration among women's networks and organizations and develop an effective mechanism for women's inclusive and accountable participation in the implementation of the peace agreement.

48. UNMISS also worked to enhance public understanding of its mandate, its support for the implementation of the peace agreement and activities relating to the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission and the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism. In addition to weekly press briefings, UNMISS has undertaken outreach in all field offices and organized events for civil society and communities in Juba, where key messages on peace were shared and copies of the peace agreement distributed in four languages. Meanwhile, United Nations Radio Miraya provided daily coverage of the implementation of the peace process.

49. Across the Mission area, UNMISS has undertaken activities focused on awareness of HIV/AIDS and voluntary confidential counselling and testing services, targeting all civilian and uniformed members of the Mission. In Juba, an additional 24 HIV/AIDS peer educators, including 5 women, completed training. In addition, 2,747 peacekeepers, including 240 women, received HIV/AIDS awareness training, with 39 personnel, including 5 women, receiving voluntary confidential counselling and testing services. In addition, three people, including a woman, received post-exposure prophylaxis. Public outreach activities were conducted in collaboration with other humanitarian actors. The Mission conducted two workshops for national staff working at the sites for the protection of civilians at Malakal and Bentiu; and 74 national staff members, including a woman, of diverse non-governmental agencies in Malakal and Bentiu received training on HIV/AIDS. The Mission also raised awareness of HIV/AIDS among 3,129 civilians, including 548 women, at the protection sites. Sustained weekly radio broadcasts enabled UNMISS to raise the awareness of an estimated 67,137 people, including 33,003 women, of HIV/AIDS.

VI. Staffing and status of deployment of surge capacity

50. As at 3 June, the strength of UNMISS civilian personnel stood at 2,581, comprising 850 international staff members, 1,306 national staff members and 425 United Nations Volunteers.

51. The UNMISS military strength stood at 12,298, consisting of 11,750 military personnel, 361 staff officers and 187 military liaison officers. UNMISS anticipates the incremental deployment of additional engineering capability of up to 379 personnel and the establishment of a level II hospital in Bentiu. The UNMISS police strength stood at 1,475 of the authorized 2,001 officers, including 591 individual police officers, 55 corrections officers and 829 personnel in formed police units. As part of the increased ceiling for police, an additional 70 formed police unit personnel from Rwanda were deployed to Malakal in March and 103 formed police unit personnel from Ghana were deployed to Bentiu in May. Preparations are under way for the deployment of two additional formed police units from Rwanda and Ghana to Juba and Bentiu, respectively. To date, 74 of the planned 100 individual police officers (specialized trainers) earmarked for the training of the Joint Integrated Police have been deployed.

52. During the reporting period, UNMISS continued to implement the United Nations zero-tolerance policy for sexual exploitation and abuse and other targets contained in my report to the General Assembly on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (A/69/779). That was achieved through the UNMISS standing task force on sexual exploitation and abuse and the Conduct and Discipline Advisory Group. UNMISS also concluded a memorandum of understanding with NGOs operating from UNMISS premises, obliging them to report all incidents of misconduct, in particular sexual exploitation and abuse involving their staff members, to UNMISS. That will enable the Mission to investigate alleged perpetrators as warranted. The UNMISS immediate response team was inaugurated on 14 April. The team will provide a comprehensive and immediate response to cases of alleged sexual exploitation and abuse involving United Nations personnel.

VII. Violations of the status-of-forces agreement, international humanitarian law and the security of United Nations personnel

53. During the reporting period, UNMISS recorded 33 violations of the status-of-forces agreement, 23 of which were restrictions on movement affecting UNMISS personnel and associated partners. Incidents included violations of UNMISS premises and equipment, demand for payment of taxes, confiscation of United Nations property and interference with air and land operations. Other violations included interference with the implementation of the UNMISS mandate, direct attacks on persons seeking protection at UNMISS sites for the protection of civilians, arrests, detentions, assaults and threats against and robbery from UNMISS personnel. Reported violations were committed by government agencies.

54. In Bentiu on 25 and 26 April, small arms and rocket-propelled grenades were fired in the direction of the UNMISS compound by an armed group: two of the grenades landed inside the compound, damaging a residential container in the

humanitarian hub, and a bullet injured an internally displaced person in the protection site. The motive for the attack is unknown.

55. Two UNMISS national staff members, who had initially been arrested on 8 March and released on 15 March, were rearrested and then released on bail on 22 April. On 25 April, the Criminal Investigations Department of the national police charged them with fraudulently obtaining South Sudanese citizenship. Three other UNMISS national staff members, two of whom were arrested in December 2013 and one in October 2014, remain in detention. None of the arrested staff members have been charged and UNMISS has been denied access to the three staff members who remain in detention.

56. The Mission continues to notify the host Government of violations through notes verbales and in meetings with relevant officials. A monthly matrix of incidents is also shared with the Government.

VIII. Financial aspects

57. The General Assembly, by its resolution 69/260 B, appropriated the amount of $1,085,769,200 for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016. As at 9 June 2016, unpaid assessed contributions to the UNMISS special account amounted to $289.4 million. Total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations as at the same date amounted to $2,279.4 million. Reimbursement of troop and formed police costs has been made for the period up to 30 April 2016, while reimbursement of the costs of contingent-owned equipment has been made for the period up to 31 March 2016, in accordance with the quarterly payment schedule.

IX. Observations and recommendations

58. The return of the First Vice-President to Juba and the formation of the transitional Government of National Unity on 29 April marked a major milestone in the peace process. By taking this important and long-overdue step, the President and the First Vice-President have opened a new chapter in the history of South Sudan. I welcome the positive calls made by all sides for peace, national unity and reconciliation since the formation of the transitional Government and I urge the parties to finally commit themselves to fully implementing the peace agreement, in both letter and spirit, without further delay. The Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the African Union, the United Nations and international and regional peace partners, who have worked tirelessly to support a peaceful resolution of the conflict, are committed to supporting the leaders of South Sudan and its people in its full implementation.

59. The scale of destruction, human suffering, political and social polarization and economic decline that has befallen South Sudan in the past two and a half years underscores the immediate need to stabilize the country. While there are no illusions about the continuing climate of mistrust among the parties, over the course of the coming 30 months, the transitional Government must transcend those obstacles. It must boldly spearhead the fundamental reforms outlined in the peace agreement, including its incorporation into the transitional Constitution of 2011; the drafting

and ratifying of a permanent constitution; outlining a road map for security sector reform; undertaking key economic reforms; and establishing the requisite institutions for justice and reconciliation. To that end, I welcome the intention of the transitional Government to articulate a time-bound action plan for the implementation of the agreement. I encourage it to adopt an inclusive approach and ensure that all stakeholders, including other political parties and civil society organizations, are involved in moving the peace process forward.

60. To create the climate of trust and security needed to implement the peace agreement, I urge all sides to abide by their obligations to demilitarize Juba, redeploy their forces as stipulated under the peace agreement and allow the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism to verify their redeployment. Now that the transitional Government has been formed, I urge the President and the First Vice-President to prevail upon their respective supporters to exercise restraint, exhibit good faith in dealing with security and other challenges or disputes arising from the implementation of the peace agreement and address all outstanding issues through dialogue and compromise.

61. I also urge the transitional Government to accelerate the establishment and activation of key transitional institutions. In that vein, I welcome the recent operationalization of the Joint Operations Centre and the establishment of the Joint Management Team. I urge the parties to work expeditiously to operationalize the Joint Integrated Police, in order to contribute to security and confidence-building in the areas of their deployment. I also commend the representatives of the other political parties for working together, under the auspices of the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission, to resolve the impasse over their representation in the transitional National Legislative Assembly and other transitional institutions and mechanisms. That spirit of compromise exemplifies what is required to move forward. The next step will be to expedite the selection of the Speaker and establish the transitional Assembly without further delay.

62. Notwithstanding the recent, positive political developments, intercommunal violence and violence perpetrated by the parties to the conflict continues in parts of Jonglei, Western Bahr el-Ghazal and Central and Eastern Equatoria, with dire consequences for civilians. The hostilities must cease immediately. The increase in intercommunal violence, is stoked, I fear, by the continuing implementation of the establishment order for the creation of 28 States, despite the agreed injunction against it. I take note of the recent measures taken by the transitional Government to review the number of states and their boundaries. In the meantime, the implementation of the order must be suspended, lest it contribute to the unravelling of the fragile gains made in the peace process thus far.

63. I am deeply concerned that access and movement restrictions targeting UNMISS personnel continue unabated and that attacks on UNMISS compounds continue, including most recently in Bentiu. I am alarmed that United Nations personnel continue to remain in prolonged detention and I call upon the transitional Government to ensure their immediate and unconditional release. I once again warn all armed groups that they must desist from targeting United Nations staff or installations, including sites for the protection of civilians. Such acts may constitute war crimes. UNMISS will, for its part, continue its efforts to manage and mitigate the potential causes of insecurity in and around sites for the protection of civilians, especially in Juba, Malakal and Bentiu.

64. The dire humanitarian situation in South Sudan remains a source of serious concern. I urge the donor community to redouble its efforts to fill the funding gap of more than $899.6 million in the humanitarian appeal for South Sudan. It is unacceptable that humanitarian operations continue to be constrained by denials of access, restrictions on freedom of movement and continued violence. I am appalled that, since the beginning of the crisis, 55 aid workers have been killed in South Sudan. All parties must allow humanitarian actors the freedom to carry out their work without obstruction or threat of violence. Impeding the provision of life-saving aid is a violation of international humanitarian law and prevents the people of South Sudan from obtaining the assistance that they so desperately need.

65. For a sustainable peace, the transitional Government must also ensure respect for human rights and accountability for human rights violations, including through the establishment of all the transitional justice mechanisms called for under the peace agreement. I welcome the discussions within the African Union Commission on the modalities for the establishment of a hybrid court, as agreed upon by the parties to the peace agreement. The United Nations stands ready to lend its technical assistance to the African Union and the transitional Government in establishing the court.

66. I commend the Chair of the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission for the momentous achievements of the Commission and reaffirm the continued support of the United Nations for his efforts. I also commend the Special Representative of the African Union and other international partners for their efforts in providing mediation support and exerting constructive pressure on the parties to move the peace process forward in the last two months. At this critical juncture, our collective support is essential to reassure the people of South Sudan that a sustainable peace is within reach. I encourage the international community to provide its moral, material and financial support to the newly created transitional Government. I call upon the transitional Government to work with the international community to put in place the institutions and mechanisms necessary to enhance transparency and accountability and facilitate donor funding for the implementation of the peace agreement. The United Nations will continue to work with the region and other members of the international community to promote the provision of sustained, coordinated and harmonized international support to the peace process.

67. In my special report on the review of the UNMISS mandate of 23 November 2015 (S/2015/899), I recommended a phased approach to defining the engagement of the Mission in South Sudan, based on a regular assessment of the operating environment in the country and the progression of the peace process. Given the recent political developments and the upcoming renewal of the UNMISS mandate, on 13 June the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations visited South Sudan to assess the implementation of the UNMISS mandate and take stock of the implementation of the peace agreement. I was particularly encouraged by his frank and constructive discussion with the President on the road ahead. I was reassured to learn that the transitional Government is well aware of the political, security and economic challenges that it will need to address over the coming 30 months in order to lay the foundations of a sustainable peace for South Sudan. In that context, I welcome the President's commitment to improving the operating environment for UNMISS and humanitarian partners, including by granting access and freedom of movement, which is fundamental to our continued support to the Government and the people. I was also encouraged by their exchange on unmanned unarmed aerial

vehicles, during which they discussed the possibility of sharing information between the Congolese and South Sudanese authorities on the ability of those systems to assist UNMISS with the protection of civilians and act as a deterrent against spoilers.

68. The above-mentioned developments notwithstanding, as indicated in my progress report, the political, security, humanitarian and human rights situation in the country remains fluid and the nascent institutions of the transition have yet to articulate their priorities. Given that the UNMISS mandate is due to expire on 31 July 2016, I strongly recommend its extension for six months, during which time UNMISS and Headquarters will carry out the second phase of determining the support to the consolidation of peace and security in South Sudan that UNMISS could provide, giving due consideration to national priorities. In the light of the positive developments towards the implementation of the transitional security architecture, a detailed military and police capability study aimed at determining the full scope of support required by the transitional security institutions will also be undertaken.

69. Lastly, I wish to express my gratitude to UNMISS and the staff of the United Nations country team, who have worked to protect thousands of civilians and facilitated the provision of humanitarian assistance. In particular, I wish to thank my Special Representative, Ellen Margrethe Løj, for her exemplary leadership, as well as the troop- and police-contributing countries that have provided uniformed personnel and assets to the Mission.

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